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Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives
First session
17–28 May 1999
Agenda items 3 and 4

Preliminary review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development

Consideration of further actions and initiatives to implement the commitments made at the Summit

Revised draft decision submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Preparatory Committee on the basis of informal consultations

Role of the United Nations system

The Preparatory Committee,

Recalling its decision 4, on the role of the United Nations system, taken at its organizational session in May 1998,

1. *Invites* all relevant organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other concerned organizations, within their mandates, to elaborate and submit, as set out below, review reports and proposals, which fully integrate a gender perspective, for further action and initiatives, taking into account national reports submitted by Governments;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as part of his overall preparations for the special session, to make available those review reports and proposals to the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session, in April 2000, and, where appropriate, to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-eighth session, in February 2000;

Commitment 1
An enabling environment for social development

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in conjunction with relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, taking into account the

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reports of national Governments, to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session on the following:

(a) The impact of globalization on social development;

(b) Development of guidelines on the role and social responsibilities of the private sector;

(c) Undertaking of social impact assessments utilizing comparative methodology of economic measures implemented by developing countries in the aftermath of financial crises, taking into account experiences gained from past crises in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean;

2. *Invites* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with relevant organizations and in the context of its ongoing work relating to the formulation of a positive agenda for trade for developing countries, to carry out an assessment of the sectors and products where action could be taken to further liberalize markets with a view to increasing market access for the exports of developing countries;

3. *Invites* the World Bank to study the feasibility of increasing funding for projects for the development of infrastructure for social development in developing countries;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in conjunction with the relevant United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to prepare a report on additional measures to support the efforts of the countries with economies in transition directed towards reducing the social costs of the transition process and achieving sustained economic growth, including the formulation by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development of a positive agenda for trade for those countries, with a view to liberalizing markets and increasing access for the exports of the countries with economies in transition;

5. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a report, based on existing reports, on progress achieved and obstacles encountered since the World Summit for Social Development in the ratification and implementation of existing international conventions and covenants and in the implementation of other relevant human rights instruments, including the Declaration on the Right to Development;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present to the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session an update on the report to be presented to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session, as requested in paragraph 20 of Assembly resolution 53/172 of 15 December 1998, with particular focus on social development and suggesting specific measures for responding to the social consequences of the recent financial crises;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to review and submit to the Preparatory Committee his reports on progress achieved in the implementation of United Nations resolutions concerning the right of self-determination, in particular for people living under colonial and foreign occupation, with a view to enabling them to participate freely in social and economic development;

Commitment 2
Poverty eradication

8. *Invites* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the President of the World Bank, when preparing their upcoming major reports on poverty reduction, to recommend additional strategies, at the national and international levels, as well as policies and programmes for poverty eradication, taking into account the feminization of poverty;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to undertake further efforts to evaluate the progress towards the achievement of international targets agreed on in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development[1] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[2] aimed at meeting the basic human needs of all and to report thereon to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-eighth session and to the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session;

10. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with relevant organizations, in particular the International Labour Organization and the International Social Security Association, to prepare a report for the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session containing recommendations for further action in the field of social protection, taking into consideration the particularities of regions and countries, their level of development and the need for international cooperation to support the efforts of developing countries in this regard within the overall goal of the eradication of poverty;

Commitment 3
Full employment

11. *Invites* the International Labour Organization and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, such as the World Bank:

(a) To present analyses on the following issues:

(i) The scope for and obstacles to increasing the employment potential of infrastructure development in developing countries, in particular in rural areas;

(ii) Stimulation of employment in the social sector through private investment;

(iii) Special employment issues faced by particular groups, including youth, older persons, migrants, persons with disabilities and indigenous people;

(iv) The contribution of the informal sector and small enterprises in generating potential for self-employment and sustainable livelihoods and in contributing to social integration, in particular for vulnerable groups;

(v) Policy measures at the regional and international levels to stimulate employment;

(vi) Successful national and regional initiatives and experiences in the creation of employment and their applicability elsewhere;

(vii) The role of vocational education, training and retraining, in particular in skills increasingly demanded in the changing technical and economic environment;

(viii) The potential role of social dialogue in increasing employment;

(ix) Reconciliation of work and family life;

(b) To propose, on the basis of the analyses, concrete suggestions for employment generation, taking into account gender-specific obstacles to employment, as well as the goal of equal employment opportunities;

12. *Invites* the United Nations Development Programme to report on creating and improving sustainable livelihoods for those living in poverty, paying special attention to the links between employment/jobs, resources and the environment;

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[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

Commitment 4
Promoting social integration

13. *Invites* the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development to report on its findings on institutional arrangements for social integration, as well as the role of civil society in the planning and provision of social services; the report should also be made available to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-eighth session;

14. *Invites* the United Nations Volunteers Programme, the focal point for the International Year of Volunteers, to report on the role of volunteering in the promotion of social development and to make proposals thereon;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session on suggested means to promote social integration in the context of post-conflict situations;

Commitment 5
Equality and equity between women and men

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session, for information, the outcome of the third session, in March 2000, of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", as well as the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, which will be before the Commission on the Status of Women;

Commitment 6
Universal and equitable access to high-quality education and health services

17. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in collaboration with other relevant agencies, building on progress made since the World Conference on Education for All, held at Jomtien, Thailand from 5 to 9 March 1990, to submit a report on progress made towards achieving the goals of education for all as agreed in the Copenhagen Programme of Action, including the goal of closing the gender gap in education, through existing initiatives, and to make recommendations on further action; the report should also be made available to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-eighth session;

18. *Invites* the World Health Organization, in consultation with the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome and other interested organizations of the United Nations system, to submit a report on progress made and obstacles encountered in achieving the goal of universal access to primary health services, such as clean water, safe sanitation, nutrition programmes, malaria and disease prevention, and reproductive health care, including for women and girls, through existing initiatives and to make recommendations on further action; the report should also be made available to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-eighth session;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General in conjunction with the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee and other relevant organizations, to report and make proposals on the various dimensions of the implementation of the 20/20 initiative, in the light of declining official development assistance, in line with the Oslo and Hanoi

consensus, for consideration by the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session; the report should also be made available to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-eighth session;

Commitment 7
Acceleration of development in Africa and in the least developed countries

20. *Invites* the Secretary-General to present an updated report on obstacles facing development in Africa and the least developed countries and, in that report, to pay special attention to the following:

(a) Measures to eliminate those obstacles;

(b) Evaluation of the degree of marginalization of these countries in terms of the integration of their economies in the global market;

(c) Means to strengthen the measures and mechanisms for commodity diversification in the framework of the industrialization process;

21. *Invites* the United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, in conjunction with its seven sponsors, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization and the World Bank, to prepare and propose means for implementing a strategy for reducing the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome infection rate in young people between the ages of fifteen and twenty-four years, with the goal of ensuring that by 2010 prevalence in this age group is reduced globally by 25 per cent and in the twenty-five African countries most affected by the pandemic, by 25 per cent by 2005;

Commitment 8
Inclusion of social development goals in structural adjustment programmes

22. *Invites* the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to report on progress made and obstacles encountered in the integration of social development goals into structural adjustment programmes, with a view to presenting strategies to mitigate the negative effects of those programmes on social programmes and strengthening their social dimension, as well as to improving their positive impact, taking into account the need to enhance coordination with other United Nations organizations in this regard; the report should be made available to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-eighth session;

Commitment 9
Resources for social development

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with relevant organizations, to present a report to the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session with proposals for additional and innovative sources to obtain resources for social development;

Commitment 10
International cooperation for social development

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to provide written information on

how coordination efforts in the field of development cooperation can be more effectively utilized in implementing the commitments of the World Summit for Social Development, and present it to the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session.